

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

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STATE DEPT PASS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BEIRUT FOR MATTSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, SEDU, KU

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MANPOWER TRAINING GROUP EXPRESSES INTEREST
IN U.S. ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY: KUWAIT HIGHER COMMITTEE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, WHICH CHARGED WITH PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICALLY NEEDED SKILLS, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXPLORING AREAS IN WHICH U.S. COULD ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR PROGRAM. THEY ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN U.S.-SAUDI COMMISSION TALKS ON MANPOWER. COMMITTEE ALREADY HAS SOME COOPERATION ESTABLISHED WITH U.K. AS KUWAIT LOSES EXPATRIATES TO OTHER STATES IN AREA, MANPOWER SHORTAGES BECOMING MORE CRITICAL AND COMMITTEE ALREADY WELL ALONG IN ITS PLANNING. BECAUSE KUWAIT'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP INTERNALLY HAS CERTAIN POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BENEFITS TO U.S., I BELIEVE U.S. G. SHOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO ANY REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING FROM KUWAIT. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBOFF MET RECENTLY WITH DIRECTOR KUWAIT HIGHER COMMITTEE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (KHCVE) RASHED IDREES AND HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISER DR. AMIN IZZEDIN (EGYPTIAN). HIGHER COMMITTEE WHICH SET UP MORE THAN A YEAR AGO IS CHARGED WITH FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS TO TRAIN SKILLED KUWAITI LABORERS WHO BADLY NEEDED IF KUWAIT IS TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. IDREES AND IZZEDIN REITERATED INTEREST, EARLIER STATED IN JANUARY WHEN REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE VISITED KUWAIT, IN EXPLORING AREAS IN WHICH U.S. COULD ASSIST KUWAIT WITH ITS MANPOWER PROGRAMS.

2. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WHISHED TO KNOW WHAT PROPOSALS HAD BEE DISCUSSED IN THE JOINT U.S.-SAUDI COMMISSION DEALING WITH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. THEY HOPED TO GET FROM THIS IDEAS AS TO WHERE U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST KUWAIT WITH ITS PROGRAMS. ALREADY, KHCVE HAS REACHED SOME TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH U.K. FOR COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD AND PLANS TO SEND SEVERAL OF THEIR PERSONNEL TO U.K. FOR TRAINING. IDREES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING SOME OF HIS 28 STAFF MEMBERS VISIT U.S. OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE BODIES FOR SHORT-TERM TRAINING IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION. HE ALSO SHOWED TENTATIVE INTEREST IN HAVING VOCATIONAL TEACHERS AND OUTSTANDING STUDENTS STUDY IN THE U.S.

3. THUS FAR, COMMITTEE HAS DRAWN UP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH VOCATIONAL INSTITUTES TO TRAIN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL GRADUATES IN VOCATIONAL SKILLS NEEDED IN FIELDS OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, PETROLEUM AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, AND CAR ASSEMBLY AND MAINTENANCE. THEY HAVE ALSO RECENTLY INVITED INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE A MANPOWER STUDY WHICH WOULD CATALOGUE PRESENT NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BY SKILL AVAILABLE IN THE MANPOWER POOL AND SEEK TO PROJECT FUTURE MANPOWER NEEDS AGAINST WHICH TRAINING PRIORITIES WILL BE ESTABLISHED. SOME THOUGHT ALSO BEING GIVEN FOR KUWAIT AND OTHER GULF STATES TO FUND TRAINING PROGRAMS IN COUNTRIES WITH SURPLUS MANPOWER SUCH AS EGYPT AND SUDAN WITH UNDERSTANDING THE GULF STATES COULD CONTRACT FOR SERVICES OF CERTAIN NUMBER OF GRADUATES THESE INSTITUTES. IN LAST TWO YEARS KUWAIT HAS HAD MORE EXPATRIATES LEAVING COUNTRY THAN COMING AS OPPORTUNITIES IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAQ, IRAN AND EVEN EGYPT BECOME MORE PLENTIFUL. THIS OF GREAT WORRY TO KUWAITIS AS THEY FEAR EXCESSIVE NUMBERS OF INDIANS AND PAKISTANIS ENTERING COUNTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DILUTING ARAB CHARACTER OF POPULATION. ALREADY THEY HAVE EASED REQUIREMENTS FOR PEOPLE WISHING ENTER COUNTRY TO WORK. THIS RECENT OUTFLOW IS ALSO A SPUR FOR THEM TO MOVE AHEAD RAPIDLY WITH THEIR OWN TRAINING PROGRAMS WHICH DRAW ON KUWAITIS ONLY. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT GOK WILL NO LONGER MAKE GOVERNMENT JOBS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL DROPOUTS WHO REFUSE TO ENROLL IN AVAILABLE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.

4. I REQUEST DEPARTMENT MAKE AVAILABLE TO US ANY NON-SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF MANPOWER DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD WITH SAUDIS WITH WHICH WE CAN BRIEF KHCVE. FURTHER REQUEST WE BE GIVEN GUIDANCE AS WHAT ASSISTANCE U.S.G. COULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO HIGHER COMMITTEE ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS IF THEY DECIDE THAT U.S. HELP IS DESIRABLE. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT U.S.G. HAS ALREADY AGREED IN PRINCIPAL ESTABLISH AND OPERATE MILITARY TECHNICAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL FOR KUWAIT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HOWEVER, KHCVE AND MOD PROGRAMS ARE SEPARATE AND PARALLEL AT PRESENT.

5. COMMENT: KUWAIT HAS MANY AMBITIOUS PROJECTS PLANNED WHICH CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL TRAINED MANPOWER BECOMES AVAILABLE. I STRONGLY FAVOR DEVELOPING REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS IN CRITICAL AREAS SUCH AS MANPOWER TRAINING WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF KUWAIT. MOREOVER, OUR ASSISTANCE COULD GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING TO EASE POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF GROWING KUWAITI FINANCIAL SURPLUSES BY FACILITATING DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE EXPENDITURE IN KUWAIT ITSELF. BELIEVE KUWAITIS WILL APPRECIATE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM U.S.G. IN ASSISTING PROGRAM THAT IS OF LOCAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. IN SHORT, I BELIEVE U.S.G. CAN REAP NOTEWORTHY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GAINS BY COMING FORWARD QUICKLY WITH POSITIVE RESPONSE IF AND WHEN KUWAITI REQUEST FORTHCOMING.
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